



Toni Hardesty

Toni Hardesty is Director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). She was appointed to this position by Governor Dirk Kempthorne in July 2004. As director, she is responsible for leading the state's efforts to preserve the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water for the use and enjoyment today and in the future.

In addition to heading up DEQ, Director Hardesty serves at the request of the governor on a number of state commissions and boards including the Western States Water Council, the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, the Pesticide Management Commission, the Idaho Rural Partnership, and the Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals.

Toni's environmental career began in Boise as an intern in DEQ's Air Quality Program.

In 1988, she accepted a position with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region X, broadening her knowledge of environmental compliance and regulation. After two years with the EPA, Radian International LLC, an environmental consulting firm in Bellevue, Washington, recruited her to move to the private sector as a Project Manager and Environmental Scientist. There she developed technical expertise and became skilled in negotiating environmental issues with agencies, citizens, and industry. She also gained considerable experience in developing strategy and managing sensitive environmental issues during her 10-year career at Radian.

While at Radian, Toni was offered a position with EMCON, one of the largest providers of integrated solid waste services in the United States. After one year of service as a Technical Staff Manager and Operations Manager, she was recruited back to Radian, which ultimately became URS Corporation. There she sharpened her skills to successfully manage both technical and corporate needs in the Seattle and Boise Offices.

Since 2003, Toni has served the Department of Environmental Quality as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Air Quality Division and Administrator of the Water Quality Division, overseeing the agency efforts to protect Idaho's surface, ground, and drinking water resources.

An Idaho native, Toni holds a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental health from Boise State University. She lives in Boise with her husband and their two children.